

tion of alkali. Recent developments in the field of penicillin therapy involving less frequent administration of the ordinary soluble form of the drug were not available at the time the book went to press.

This book should be in the library of all physicians and medical students. It will be of particular value to the latter group and to their teachers, since the information presented has not been readily available elsewhere.

BERGEY'S MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY. Board of Editor-Trustees Robert S. Breed, New York State Experiment Station (Cornell University), Geneva, New York; E. G. D. Murray, McGill University, Montreal, Province Quebec, Canada; and A. Parker Hitchens, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sixth Edition. The Williams & Wilkins Company. \$15.00.

The sixth edition of Bergey's Manual brings this well known and valuable guide to the classification of the bacteria up to date. The book has been expanded to include additional species and new information. An index of "Sources and Habitats" will be of particular value in the identification of unknown organisms. Inspection of several sections reveals the considerable confusion that still exists in regard to the delineation of species among the bacteria and viruses.

This volume is an essential tool for general bacteriologists. It is much less valuable for the medical bacteriologist since better and more usable descriptions of the human pathogens are available.

HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT AND MEDICAL FORMULARY. By Charles M. Bruber, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers, Philadelphia. 1948. \$7.00.

This book is written as a reference work and a guide in drug prescription therapy. Its reasons for being in existence are the rapid advance in drug therapy and the need for ready and concise reference on the part of the medical practitioner. Its intent is to assist the practitioner to recognize anachronistic medicine and to employ modern methods.

The conditions discussed are arranged alphabetically. There is abundant cross reference. The drugs used in treatment are usually given in the form of prescriptions. The prescriptions are written out in both English and Latin. (The author rightly assumes that the full Latin rendition will be instructive to many.) Doses are given in both the metric and apothecary systems.

As a summary of modern drug therapy—up to 1945 (there are few references past that year)—one may praise this book, even if one does not agree with all of the selection of remedies. For example, why should pellet implantation be the only form of testosterone therapy used for eunuchoidism and testosterone in oil the only form used in cryptorchidism? On the other hand, it is refreshing to read all through the treatment of abrasions of the skin and subcutaneous abscesses and see no recommendation of the old type of skin disinfectant; instead one is advised to make the wound as clean as possible, to cover it and to use penicillin or sulfathiazol topically.

It is a handy book to have in one's office.

THE 1947 YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY. Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Chicago. \$3.75.

Testing one's familiarity with the current literature, it is a great stimulus to read every summary and comment of *The 1947 Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology* so ably edited by Dr. J. P. Greenhill. From the first article "Fibrous Nature of Human Cervix and Its Relation to Isthmic Segment in Gravid and Nongravid Uteri" by Danforth (which, by the way, is a real contribution to the literature on this infrequently discussed subject) to the last division on "Endocrinology," one finds a crystal-clear, brief summation and

comment on the world literature. The conservative attitude concerning the value of the hormone test for pregnancy, the use of Vitamin E in sterility, abortions, premature labor, the limitations of the application of estrogen therapy and the comments on his own article, make one feel that the author is sound and honest in his opinions. Even an editorial prerogative, however, should not extend to such a selective interpretation of the use of spinal anesthesia in obstetrics. As enthusiastic as one may become about local anesthesia and as adept as one may be in its application, it has not been accepted as the anesthetic of choice in most clinics outside of those of the "Chicago group."

The outstanding articles in obstetrics reviewed in this book are Danforth's chapter on "Physiology," Hertig's and Sheldon's "Hydatidiform Mole," "Pregnancy in Patient with Hypertensive Disease" by Chesley and Annitto, and also Brown's and Mengert's "Recognition of Midpelvic Contraction." In Gynecology the chapter on "Infertility" has many helpful suggestions. In the section on Operative Technique, Shaw's article on the "Anatomy of the Vagina" is extremely valuable. Under Malignant Tumors, the work on vaginal smears is completely reviewed and emphasis is definitely placed on its limitations.

The articles by Norman F. Miller and Emil Novak on Carcinoma of the Corpus and Uterus are outstanding and the comments are most valuable.

The author and the publisher are to be complimented again for this excellent survey and the obstetrician and gynecologist who did not read the current literature as it was published, can relieve his professional conscience by reading *The 1947 Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY. By Clinton H. Thienes, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., and Thomas J. Haley, Ph.D., Fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Second Edition. Enlarged and thoroughly revised, illustrated. Lea and Febiger. 1948.

This book is 64 pages longer than the senior author's first edition. The increases have been made in descriptive material and in the number of tests for identifying the new drugs such as dihydromorphinone (dilaudid), ephedrine isomers, demerol, etc. New tests for several old poisons are included. The new antihistamines, benadryl and pyribenzamine, are recommended for use in histamine poisoning; BAL (2,3-dithiolpropanol) for metallic poisoning. The new insecticide, D.D.T., is also described and treatment indicated. There are two long lists of reactions of leading sulfonamides. Poisoning from vitamins is not overlooked, the two chief offenders being thiamine (B₁) and vitamin D.

This is more than a handy reference book on all aspects of poisons. There is a synopsis of all essential information about each drug. This is repetitious of the discussions in textbooks on pharmacology. The grouping of poisons according to their major toxic action is preserved from the first edition. The authors state that for each poison at least one of the treatments suggested should be available to the physician in time of emergency, and this seems to be adhered to throughout. Highly commendable features are sections devoted to chemical diagnosis, the tests being described with adequate discussions and details of use of apparatus and reagents, with remarks as to the limitations of and errors in devices, instruments, etc. There is also an appendix which describes the preparation of special reagents—information not readily found elsewhere.

While this book will be of interest chiefly to professional toxicologists, medico-legal experts, and clinical pathologists, there is enough in it of value to physicians in practice to justify having it on the office shelf of handy books.